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Darlington Memorial Library

MEMOIRS

OF

MAJOR ROBERT STOBO,

OF THE

Virginia Regiment.



ARMA VIRUMQUE.



London :

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M DCCC.

MEMOIRS, &c.

THIS little hero of the following memoirs, whose dauntless courage, constant zeal, and still greater sufferings, well deserve the attention of every lover of his country; was born at Glasgow, Anno 1727. His father, William Stobo, was a merchant and citizen of that place, and the first who brought its manufactures up to England, whence Glasgow has since received such vast yearly returns; his mother was daughter of James Mitchell, of Balmore, near Glasgow, remarkable for nothing more than his eminent piety, and a small inheritance of his family, who was commonly distinguished by the appellation of the gentleman of Balmore, which courtesy he probably enjoyed as being nearly related, by his mother, to the noble and ancient family of Montrose.

Robert

Robert Stobo was the only son of his father, that lived past infancy, and consequently the great darling of his parents, and withall, so prodigiously delicate in his constitution, that when a boy, he was nursed two spring seasons on breast milk; being at length able to go to school, his infant education was attended to with great care, and he was early in the latin school of that place; here, as he had gathered a little strength to his natural activity of body and mind, he soon betrayed a turn for arms, and constantly employed his play hours in drum-beating, mustering, and exercising his comrades with great alertness, and would often discipline them, severely too, though much his superiors in strength of body, for he still was very delicate.

In the year 1740 his father died, and leaving him under the guardianship of his nearest friends, he spent a season or two in the university there, when his mother dying likewise, his friends determined, with his own consent, to send him to Virginia, to serve in a store of some merchants of Glasgow, where he performed his engagements with approbation; and having begun business for himself, he returned to Glasgow Anno 1747; in order to commence merchant with better hopes of success, he converted some houses he had into money, and laid out all his small

small fortune in merchandise, and went over with a resolution to settle, at least some years, in Virginia, where the natural openness and freedom of his temper, joined with a turn for gaiety, soon made him a necessary person in every party of pleasure, and his acquaintance was much courted by all the best company of the province.

Too much of his time went this way to make any considerable progress in the mercantile life, and as it ill suited with his disposition to be constantly entertained by his friends, without returning their civilities, he determined to keep house with very little other view than to entertain, and his house was indeed open to every body; in this pleasureable scene, which lasted till 1754, he enjoyed the only sweets he has yet tasted, for early in that year the french began to make very bare-faced encroachments on the frontiers of Virginia, insomuch that the governor, Mr. Dinwoodie, found himself obliged to oppose them; in the assembly of the province a regiment is determined to be forthwith raised, and to advance towards the enemy to stop their progress; the occasion was very opportune, and too well suited to Mr. Stobo's disposition, to let it pass; he offered his service to the province in this dangerous emergency.

As

A 2

As he was a particular favorite with the governor, and as may be easily imagined from his temper and way of life, much beloved by the whole people, he was appointed the old captain of this regiment: here his hospitable disposition did not vanish, & he provided largely for the campaign. The regiment was in March, he had ten servants, in chancery whom he enlisted, provided himself w. a covered waggon, well filled with every necessary proper to make their mountainous woody desarts as agreeable as their situation could admit: During his stay with the regiment, (which we shall soon see was not long,) he kept an open table in the wilderness, which was always plentifully supplied with the game the woods afforded, as he had some of the best sportsmen of this kind constantly out for that purpose; besides, he carried a whole butt of madeira wine with him at his first setting out.

This sort of behaviour soon won him the hearts of all the officers, and his activity in forwarding the discipline of the soldiers, soon drew their attention to him; in short, he was too much the darling of officers and men to escape the suspicion and envy of his superior officers, and this may, with some probability, be suspected for the reason of his being delivered up an hostage, as we shall see immediately.

By

By the breaking out of the war so suddenly as it did in North America, Mr. Stobo was altogether baulked in the schemes he had formed of advancing his fortune with the advantages of his mechanics, &c. which certainly would have been the case had the regiment remained inactive on the frontiers, and built forts by way of barrier against the enemy ; but the French had prevented this effect by the hostilities they had already committed against the English settlers, by driving them from their habitations, and building fort-du quesne so far within on the territories of his Britannic Majesty, as they were stipulated by the treaty of Aix la Chapelle ; but as it is no part of my business, and far from my design, to enter into the merits of the war, or speak of its progress, I shall only touch very briefly upon these scenes, so far as they relate to my story, where Mr. Stobo was immediately concerned.

A part of the regiment, in June, had advanced to the great meadows, not far from the Appala^{ct}rian Mountains, with Major Washington at their head ; and on the 3d of July, in the morning, were advised of a large body of french canadians and barbarians being close upon them ; in this surprise, as they understood the enemy were about three times their number,

it was immediately resolved to entrench themselves; Captain Stobo was pitched upon for engineer, and in so short time as they had with-all, for the enemy attack'd them the same day, he planned and executed such intrenchments, which, by the by, were so bravely defended, that the french could not force them that night, and notwithstanding they were half filled with water before morning, yet they prepared for a most resolute defence; next day Monsieur considering it might cost them dear to force such brave fellows, offered them terms of capitulation, which in their present situation they could by no means refuse, the articles of which are inserted at length in the London Magazine for September, 1759, in their rise and progress of the present war.

For the performance of these articles on the part of Britain, Captain Robert Stobo and _____ Vambrun were delivered up as hostages, and the rest had the liberty to march out of their sorry garrison with all the honors of war, and to return home. Upon this strange alteration of the Captain's affairs he presented the Lieutenant of his own company with his sword, as he had then no further use for it, and begged he might not spare it when ever opportunity offered to draw it in behalf of his country, and which

sword

sword, notwithstanding that gentleman fell with the unfortunate General Braddock, was restored to its primitive owner long after his escape from Quebec, and which the Major now wears with a singular esteem.

But to return, we must now view our hero in another light; instead of devising liberal things for the accommodation of his brother officers and adventurers, advancing the military genius of the soldier; and above all, striving to excel in the service of his country: he is now in the hands of his country's enemies, and we shall presently find him in a dungeon, lying on a bag of straw, with a morsel of bread and a pan of cold water by his side, the cold earthen floor his table, no cheerful friend to pledge him to a glass, or other guest came there, except a mouse ran past his meagre fare.

In the mean time he was sent to Fort-du-Quesne, where he was treated as became his station, with all that complaisant double entendre so familiar to the French. Here he had not been long before he was heartily convinced of the faithless regard paid by that nation to any treaty, by their manifest violation of these articles for which he was detained, and forthwith formed a resolution of being serviceable to his country, even at the expence of being a

frenchman ; satisfied that he had not fought the opportunity to violate his parole, but deemed himself entirely absolved from all obligations of honor in that point, he falls about forming a plan of Fort-du-Quesne with all its approaches; meditated a scheme for the reduction of the place; committed both to paper, and was so regardless of himself as to sign it with his name; and at a great expence and much hazard, conveyed it, by means of an Indian, to the commanding officer at Wills Creek. There let it remain, it will make its appearance again but too soon.

Some time, not long after the capitulation, the Captain, tho' at this distance, nor likely soon to rejoin the regiment, took his rank in it as Major, and to that command the government of Virginia would appoint none other during all his troubles, which kept him from the regiment five years and upwards.

Whether through a mistaken policy or without design, is uncertain, but the french removed their hostage from one fort to another, through the whole chain of them, from Fort-du-Quesne down to Quebec, which is about three hundred leagues; with this advantage to himself, that he had liberty to go and come as he pleased all about the country; but at first he was at a great loss

loss from his not knowing the French tongue, to acquire which was his first study, in which pursuit he was greatly assisted by the ladies, who took great pleasure in hearing him again a child, and learning to pronounce his syllables; his manner was still open, free, and easy, which gained him ready access into all their company; nay indeed, they never thought any company complete unless Monsieur Stobo made one in it; where, as soon as he had gained a tolerable acquaintance with their language, he much availed himself of their maxims and policy, and of the nature, constitution, and manners of the different Indian nations through which he passed; and so much was he in their esteem about this time, that they conferred upon him the honor of chief of the Missisagi Indian nation: The ceremony of the installation he has not yet declared, but the badge of this order he can never more go without, for it is pricked upon the forefides of both thighs, immediately above the garter, in form, something like a diadem; the operation was performed with some sharp fish-bones dipped in a liquid which leaves a blackness under the skin, which never wears off; and as he had very little other employment at that time, he endeavored to make himself as agreeable as he could with the ladies,

ladies, and found himself much in their good graces; and whose esteem he courted, principally to gain the knowledge of things by their means, which the gentlemen, with greater caution, concealed from him. Setting aside the gentleness of his manners, there was something in his appearance very engaging, he was of the middle size, that is, about 5-feet 9 $\frac{1}{2}$. or near 10-inches high, of a dark brown complexion, a penetrating eye, an aquiline nose, round face, a good cheerful countenance, a very genteel person, rather slender than robust, and graceful in his whole deportment.

This scene lasted, without interruption, till the beginning of the year 1755, when the French Gazette, pointed him out as a person who had informed the English Government of the strength and situation of Fort-du-Quesne, which might very readily transpire, if communicated at that time when none of the schemes of this court were put in execution till almost all Europe were acquainted with them: Upon this alarm, the major's conduct was observed with stricter attention than it had been, and the french officers began now to look upon him as a dangerous inmate, but he still preserved his credit with the ladies, by cultivating that familiar *tete a tete* in their conversation in such abundance

abundance, as left them no room to think he took time to reflect on any thing else. Monsieur Stobo do such a thing.—Oh! no, poor unthinking gentleman—was their constant apology for him. But they were soon undeceived, and he was soon deprived of their conversation, together with his liberty, and almost every other gratification which could make his life supportable.

As soon as General Braddock landed in North America, in 1755, the commanding officer at the Creek delivered to him the Major's letter and plan which that unfortunate General kept till he fell, when he was surprised and attacked by the Indians, on his march through the woods; almost all his baggage fell into the hands of the enemy, with his papers, and these amongst the rest; unlucky contingent attending such a great disaster, and, oh! unthinking Major indeed, signed with his own name.

Upon this discovery he was committed close prisoner at Quebec, and hardly used; these credentials against him were remitted to Paris by the very first opportunity, and returned next year with a commission for the governor of Canada to try the prisoner for his life. Some time this year, 1756, he effected an escape from prison, but there was immediately a reward of

of 6000 livres offered to any body that would bring him in alive or dead, which drew several thousands into the woods in quest of him, and he was soon replaced to his confinement, and that too, soon changed to a worse place; and now we shall find him in a situation, truly melancholy; behold him marching into a dungeon where no ray of the sun, that glad'ner of the eyes, ever came, nor did the smallest glimpse of light ever visit his dark abode; a place long unfrequented, no crime in Canada was equal to such horrors, for at his entrance here, he found nor chair nor stool, his dismal couch, a cotton bag of straw, lay on the floor, so long unused to any guest, that the green corn, or rather white, had grown up full four inches high above the canvas; before it, on the floor, was set an earthen pan, replenished plentifully with chill cold water, and over it was laid a piece of bread.

Here Major take thy rest, if rest can enter here, mope on melancholy, and drench thy soul in sorrow; here indeed, necessity and dread of worse, might sooth a murderer's guilty conscience, but to a soul like thine, how must the agonizing moments linger on for six long weeks.

In this, his dismal cell, at his first entrance,
he

he could scarce see his finger at an inch before his nose, yet by the darkness, almost visible, his eyes acquire^l such a strength of sight, that, e'er long, he could discern a mouse when running on the floor, though at some distance.

Hence, on the 28th of November, was our hero brought, with unrelenting heart, to the Canadian bar of martial justice, where Monsieur Vadruille, the governor, sat president; the court was set, the prisoner arraigned for violating the known laws of nations, for breach of faith, and treasonable practices against the government that sheltered him. Tried by his peers, well might they have spared their guilty brother, for when did ever they preserve their faith, and by their manifest corrupt example, he scorned to offer his a sacrifice to their more barbarous infidelity; all this, and more, in vain he pleaded, no counsel for the pannel, the vote was put, and hang he must by general consent; the day was fixed, and back he's hurried to his dark abode, much worse than death, there to meditate on his last graceful exit, and con his penitentials o'er; far different was the effect, his country still prevailed, and was the reigning thought within his breast; he still was confident they durst not execute their villainous sentence on a british subject, and still burned with

with expectation, some time to get free, and to retort upon them the vile indignities they offered him. The judgement they had given they sent to France, and wait the approbation of their King, but Louis thought not fit to approve; mean while they changed his dungeon to the common jail, where two stout centinels were posted at his door, and two below his window, but *fortuna favit fortibus*, this held him not; here was a long winter on his hand: they often threatened him with execution, and oft have led him out in triumph through Quebec, his arms, with cords, well flightered down; his constant answer was, he hoped the day would come when he could twist their noses for't, who caused him this disgrace.

Here the Major learned to smoke tobacco, and every thing he could devise to kill the tedious hours, as no relief was found to free him from their hands; no cartel could bring a prisoner of equal consequence to them: he had seen all their strength, their every garrison, and was too well qualified to serve against them, to hope he should get from them. There was an officer of note, Lafosse by name, in Virginia, a prisoner detained, and he was offered; that would not do, they lost by the exchange.

To

To hear the barbarous inhuman murders that were in plenty daily dealt amongst his countrymen by the savage Indians, and the more faithless French, has oft wound up the passions of his soul to madness, which often sunk as low to think on his confinement; often would he resolve, within his breast, to find out an expedient to get away. At length being wearied with conjecture, and weighing consequences, he fixed upon the window for his door, and if the lucky project hit, and he could but once gain the woods, a six-weeks painful journey would bring him to an English settlement: the scheme was laid, the window was the place, and it was firmly barred with iron, right up and down, but not across; from iron to iron, at bottom, there must be a grove cut in the hard stone, deep and wide enough to let one staunchion to the other slide, which yielded him an easy passage; a sorry knife, round at the point, with which he cut his viuals, was all his tools; with this, his method was to rub the stone, for cut it would not, and he must not strike for making noise.

The work's begun, now let us look out for provision for the journey; naked of arms, offensive or defensive, he must get out or stay, provisions must be carried with him, for which purpose a knapsack was secured; and in his

room, upon the floor, there was a stove made round, and a box; on one side, a small door with bars, and on the top was flat, a funnel from the side conveyed away the smoke; on this he parched with care, what for his pilgrimage he meant to carry.

And now to work by turns, and now to cater for the knapsack; long time was spent in this amusement, great caution too was used for secrecy, for his room door was always open to the jailor, who might surprise him at his work: the growing grove was to be filled, with constant care, at leaving off his labour, by chewing bread on purpose, ready, which stuffing in the hole, he covered with the sand which he had rubbed, or ashes of his pipe, of the same colour; if he had been surprised before the other was provided, which some time was the case, for at this lazy hewing method he oft grew mad and tired, and would curse his perverse fate, which the poor stone was sure to feel with such a rub, the grating noise of which would sometimes rouse the jailor, who lived immediately below him, and he'd come tumbling up; the hole was filled and covered up so nicely, the Major fitting reading on a book, or walking, smoaked his pipe, as fancy led. The Jailor stalked about the room, with curious eye, and now looked through

through the bars, and then would ask his prisoner if he had not perceived such gentlemen pass by his window, nor would he say that he suspected foul design, but narrowly surveyed each corner: This often was the trial of his vigilance.

At length the work was done, the bar had room to play, but being fast at top, and short withall, it was too strong for him to bend; to help out this defect, a file was wanting, which he soon supplied, by tying his handkerchief round two bars, and into this he put a stick, with which he screwed up hard the handkerchief, which brought both bars together in a trice, and there was room enough. This engine proved, all was in order filled, as nought had been atchieved; the knapsack too was stored with dried ham and tongue, and bread and cheese, and what else suited for to keep, full thirty pounds and more; thus all was ripe for execution, but the time was wanted, and now it comes.

The 30th of April it had hailed, rained, blowed, and thundered with such violence as made it terrible, and night came on, repenting nothing of the day; the centries, placed without, nought suspected, and thinking all was quiet in such a dreadful tempest sought the shelter of the

the house ; far otherways it fared above, for he was looking for the opportunity, and found their posts deserted ; the midnight hour drew nigh, the knapsack tied and slung, the screw at work, and thus the window's opened, and down he plumps, a goodly height, into a mire below ; scarce had he touched the ground, but off he went with quick dispatch. Certain of his way, he stood not to consider, but straight he flew, well soaked in rain, and beaten by the storm ; and far above the town he reached a farmer's, and there took up his quarters, for the approaching day, into an out-house, on a hay-loft, where the kind hen had left, for him, her eggs, to suck for drink.

The morning dawn of May the 1st, proclaimed the day, when up the watchful Jailer goes to see his prisoner, the door he opens, but—*par bleau*, Monsieur was gone : away he sets, with rueful face, to give the alarm ; again 6000 livres offered for him by the beat of drum ; it yet was early, nor could the fugitive be far, the sum was tempting, and out sets the whole town. Mean while, he's sure they are after him, and snug he lies there two whole days ; and by the 3^d, different parties, different ways, pursued at greater distance.

About the midnight hour he steals from out his

his lurking place, with silent step and watchful eye, till, by degrees, he leaves the Farmer's house behind, and straight he fares for Charles' River, when he came there it was high water; no time was left to hesitate, but in he sets, and through he wades, up to his chin, his knapsack on his head.

Thus drenched in the flood, with speed he seeks the friendly covert of the neighbouring woods, and there remained for the next day; next night he edges down the river, nor at great distance, hoping there to find some stranded skiff, or forlorn canoe, with which to waft him o'er the Lawrence, then to pursue his journey, southward, through the woods. But next unlucky night, when he had got below the falls of Montmorence, just in the twilight of the approaching shade, as he had set his foot on the great road, leads downward from the falls, to cross it towards the river, he spied some gentlemen come riding up, and they saw him, surprised, he started backward to his cover, they pushed on with speed, and in they rushed among the bushes: theirs was the prize, the prisoner was seized, and back was dragged, reluctant, to Quebec.

Oh! hast thou then Britannia, thus spurned me from thy service, and am I doomed, by un-

relenting fate, in this inhospitable place to die, or grow grey-headed in a jail, pent up thus in Quebec; had I but fallen at the meadow, and sleeped in honor's ozie bed, I had been happy, but thus to die by inches, and, cutting thought ! the scorn of Britain's faithless enemies, obliged to hear them vaunt the cruel deaths that's daily suffered by her bravest sons, my countrymen; their mighty Monarch's potent arm does this, mighty indeed, for butchering and murder: Oh! could I but regain my liberty, once more to draw my sword for my lov'd country, and take ample vengeance on her remorseless foes, this feeble arm should fight while life remained, which loosing in her service, I would yeld with pleasure; but oh! I fear the happy death is not for me.

Thus did he moan his hapless destiny; ill used before, better could not now be hoped for, he sickens at the thought of his sad fate, and pines at thinking all his hopes were gone, a dreary while for him remained to linger out in sad despondency, well barred and bolted in with treble vigilance; a long long summer, and a dismal winter were to come, and these, for what he knew, might be repeated, if life so long would stay; he could not stand the thought, his spirits failed him, his looks grew

grew pale, corroding pensive thought sat brooding on his forehead, and left it all in wrinkles; his long black hair grows, like a badger, grey; his body to a shadow wastes, and e'er the winter came with her keen edge of harden'd cold, his health was gone, yet he must struggle still with the remaining span of life, for out he must not come, and he's given up for dead.

There dwelt, by lucky fate, in this strong Capital, a lady fair, of chaste renown, of manners sweet, and gentle soul; long had her heart confessed for this poor prisoner, a flame best suited with the spirit of the times to smother, whose tender breast felt double smart at this, his deep affliction, which threatened certain death; her kindred was confessed, and influence, too well known with Vadruille, this was her time, or death must soon have finished all his sorrows; and, strange speech of love, though reasonable, thus she accosts the proud Canadian Vice-Roy :

“ Mighty cousin, our grand Canadian court,
 “ most sure, were right, when they condemned
 “ this haughty English prisoner, to lose his for-
 “ feit life to our grand Monarch, whose great
 “ benevolence gives peace to mankind, his
 “ mighty arms gives empire to the world;
 “ and

" and thou, his trusty friend and well-beloved
 " Governor of this his far and wide extended
 " Northern Empire, hast wisely held, for him,
 " the reins of this great government, faithful
 " to disclose to thy grand master, this our
 " faithless foe; and well and truly, by the
 " King's commission, hast thou tried the na-
 " ture of his crime, and for thy justice in his
 " sentence, no doubt thy sovereign will give
 " thee thanks, and soon approve the wisdom of
 " thy judgement; how will it please great
 " Lewis, that this guilty wretch should suffer
 " for such crimes, and how will it grace the
 " annals of thy government, that thy country's
 " foe met with his just punishment from thee:
 " But should this faithless monster die in pri-
 " son, thou would be the looser, and he'd elude
 " the death he well deserves. Let me advise
 " thee, therefore, as thy faithful cousin, to
 " change his prison to some freer air: Thou
 " know'st there lives upon the ramparts, a
 " trusty servant, to his king and thee, whose
 " faith's been often tried; a sentinel stands
 " always by his door, if there were need for
 " force, as I believe there's none, for as I am
 " told, he only lives; nor would he, do I
 " think, if he was able, be fool enough to at-
 " tempt again to get away, as he has twice
 " already

" already tried his vanity and thy known vigilance ; and yet the wretch may live to grace thee with his swing, — I but advise. "

Her virgin innocence, and unsuspected words, prevailed, and the advice went down ; he thanked her for her kind affection to his honor, and forthwith placed the prisoner on the ramparts.

If thither he could walk, 'twas all he could, he was so wasted, a very little more would have wrought his business ; but by the well timed care of his kind hostess, and her yet kinder daughters, our prisoner here recovers by degrees, and was indulged to walk upon the ramparts, but not without the centries' view, who had the strictest charge to vigilance. The Major too bestowed great pains to shun suspicion, nor once transgressed his bounds, or over walked therein, except in open day, nor ever with the centinels was seen to speak ; expressed great satisfaction with the favor shewn him in this, his gentler confinement. Peace to the gentle maid who first contrived and brought about this happy change.

One kind officious daughter of his hostess, with never-ceasing care, beyond the rest, if she had heard him stir, or thought he wanted any

thing, even at midnight, or the earliest hours, was ever running up for to prevent, if possible, his wants.

The British months of spring time now had come, of March and April, but here 'tis later, and some English officers, prisoners at Quebec, had leave to visit him; amongst the rest, a Lieutenant of Roger's Ranging Regiment, whose name was Stevenson; there too remained amongst the croud of prisoners brought in, one Clark, a Scotchman, born at Leith, a Ship-Carpenter by trade; with him, his wife he had, and two small children; a third the savages had somewhere beat its brains out in the poor parents' sight: With Clark it's like necessity, bore no controul, his family must be supported, and to regain his liberty, he readily embraced the holy Catholic faith, as practised in the Romish mode, (a hopeful convert truly); Ship-Carpenters were scarce, and he had full employ; his readiness to serve had gained him confidence, and he was talked of to go down the river with a sloop to bring the crew who had escaped the Eagle's* wreck at Bell-Isle Streights,

* The Eagle was a French man of war, and some two or three French frigates had run in amongst a nest of islands, just to the westward of the Streights of Bell-Isle, Newfoundland; where, though it is one of the best covers for shipping perhaps in the world, the Eagle and some of the frigates were lost.

Streights. His own dear infant killed, and other cruel barbarous murders he had seen, as practised in perfection here, had doubtless estranged his heart from all this savage people, and now he hugs himself with hopes to get away in this convenient barque, could he but man her with some English prisoners, with arms provided the night before she was to sail. He missed his aim, another went, and sore he moaned his fair, lost, opportunity. Stevenson communicated to the Major this abortive scheme, which soon begat another more successful, and sets our hero free for action.

His health confirmed, though natural policy forbade his own confession of this truth, and now he found it necessary, that he might act with greater freedom, to quarrel with his young kind nurse; this breach accomplished, with reluctance, Stevenson he constituted his only confidant; the river was their rout, and Clark was necessarily of the party, as the only person who ought had seen of maratime affairs, at freedom too, to purchase what was wanted for their expedition. The Major's pocket was the exchequer whence all their payments issued, and only Stevenson knew till the last scene, he was to head their forces: Clark's wife and children

drén, and two provincials, private men, composed the whole battalion.

The 30th again of April was now appointed for the execution of their project, their rendezvous was, by eleven of the night, under a windmill, by the little river not far above the town.

Our Major took occasion, through the day, to talk of pains and heaviness, and twenty ailments, and, as the night came on, seemed very drowsy. With great precaution he had took his leave of Stevenson the day before, with strict injunction not to fail the time and place appointed, on the success of which, depended all their hopes of liberty.

As eight, his usual time of rest, approached, he told the family he hoped a good night's rest would ease him of his ailments, and hoped that he should find it by to morrow, and bid them all a bon repos, which kindly was returned by the whole house, and up he went to bed; here as he stripped, he dressed in his new uniform: a pair of trowsers first, above his breeches; the sandals to his feet, such as the rabble wear; a coarse brown jacket next, with many a thrum hang waving down like tassels; a silken handkerchief about his neck; then on his head he placed a strong thick worsted wig; no smart taupe

taupet or feathered top was there, with many a buckle in't, but alamode, and neither combed nor powdered, and over that a cap, suitable, the whole as coarse as even the meanest sailor wears upon the river Lawrence, and all in taste. Then soft he lays him down to rest, though not to sleep, for two long hours indeed, before he left his kindly hostess' friendly roof: many a doubt he solved within his mind, and many more contracted.

Before the hour of ten he steals up gently from the bed, and softly ope's the door, where he but stood to learn his next advance, and hears the family engaged in conversation, deep and loud, with many a oui madam, et il ne pas possible, Monsieur; but however, he would not take their words, but is resolved to try, and first, having quietly shut the door behind him, softly downward moves upon the stair, with silent pace and trembling steps, until he reached the opposite back door, which opening easy, out he went, through the little garden, and gladly overleaps the wall; no stranger to the road, though long unused, away he strides, a poor mean boatsman or some needy fisher.

As soon as he has cleared the town he mends his pace, and onward fares to find the mill, which presently is gained, to the great terror of his

little party, who all were come with arms for each, and some to spare, and ammunition plenty, and provisions, but yet knew nothing of his coming, only Stevenson; nor knew they what to think, and straight imagined they were all discovered, but soon were reconciled when they found Monsieur Stobo of their party, and bid him hearty welcome.

The night was fair, short while the council sat, or stoo'd, but soon agreed that upward on this river was most likely where to find a vessel for their purpose. March was the word, off they filed in firm battalion, and upward moved on this small river's edge, with wishful search, almost two miles; at length a large canoe was found, made of the bark of no small birchin tree, and well was finished: she seem'd to be the size to carry them, but nought to spare: a gladsome sight. Then up she's easy lifted 'twixt their hands, and carried for the launch; and now she on the water swims, a trusty vessel, and tight withall; then in they step and take their seats, the paddles were provided. St. George be foremost to flay all opposition, St. Andrew guard the rear from all pursuit, they said; but no loud chears to grace their setting off, or signal gun was fired to weigh.

The

The tide was turned, and with swift current downward rolled the stream, all favorable; the paddles play with nimble hands, and all at work, away she flies; no need of boatswain or his fury mates, with sharp rattan, to keep them to their tasks, and see that all were busy. The town already stands astern, Point Levi seems to meet them; next advances Orleans Isle, and by the dawn of May the 1st, they'd left Quebec a goodly distance up the river; but now the advancing flood had met them, and the clear sighted day-light made them court the mantle of the woods. In shore they row, and stepping on the beach, they jump for joy; but first they thank kind Heaven that they are got thus far. Provisions taken out, and arms, which loaded some; and then with tender care the rest do seize their slender frigate, up they lift her, and march into the woods to find some friendly thicket, where to shade them for the day. There let them rest till we return, and see how his kind hostess, in the city, fared.

The hour of eight was come, and all was very quiet in the apartment of their charge, they wait till nine, run up and see if Monsieur was awake, and what he'll have for breakfast, the mother said, the daughter runs—first knocking gently at the door, and nothing answering, then 'tis opened softly,

softly, and she ventures in--on this chair lies his coat, his hat on that, his shoes stand on the floor, his cloak hangs on a pin--then she concludes that he's gone backwards, and down she fares, and to the first she meets, Have you seen Monsieur come down this morning? no--the next the same? no--they wait a little, no Monsieur comes; they look the little house, there's nothing there--by gar, Monsieur is not to be found. The house is in an uproar, swift they fly to every corner; no, it certainly was so--the poor man, distracted, tares his hair; the mother cries; the daughters run they know not where; they're ruined quite.--how could they face the governor, 'twas worse to hide it; so with their dismal tale, away they fare.

In evil plight they stand before him, sore threatened for their negligence, or worse! for favoring his escape: Right hard their innocence they plead. No time's to loose, he must be had again; the old reward, by proclamations offered; with greedy appetite they haste abroad, and busy feet; there let them run, all search is vain, and thousands loose their labour.--good bye Quebec.

Now for the thicket, where right quiet from without they lie; and some to sleep, and some to watch, by turns, though not so calm within,
unused

unused at first, but by experience taught to bear much greater hardships. With eager wish the night comes on, and toward the beach they move; soon as the flowing tide had upward ceased to roll, they launch their feeble barque, in they set, all hands to work, and by the morning light had paddled many a mile; then to the woods; again.

This was their unremitting task for ten long days, and dreary chilling nights, upon the water; and then had paddled down an hundred leagues, at least, of this long river, without great danger from the wave or shore, or any skaith from man.

The Cudor past, and Cameraski Isles, and many more of lesser note, if they had names, in Lawrence River, here they've none. The river now grown wider, seems a Firth, and the mid-channel's deemed the safest course by night; as seen from neither shore.

About the tenth or eleventh night, it's no great matter which, the case was hard, and neither warm nor dry: The day, as wont, had past in covert; or now at greater distance from the general rendezvous of Canada, they dared to ramble in the woods, by day, in quest of game; the country, wide and desolate, afforded

plenty, to save their salt provisions, or for variety: But with returning night they put to sea, and keep the middle course, which as they gained, the wind turned eastwardly, and up the river blowed, against the ebbing tide; the gale increased, with snow and fleet, this never fails to raise a rippling sea, which now begins to swell; cautious of their danger, they begin to ply for land, and paddled hard, with many a laboured stroke, to gain the shore; the waves break in, her decks are not to stave, and now the water covers all her bottom; and filling fast, all hands that paddled not, were set to bale. Their danger soon grew eminent, her yielding sides gave pregnant symptoms of her sure destruction, and now she rises on the lifted waves' proud summit; supported in the middle, as on a high crowned ridge, and both her ends were drooping, being deeply loaded fore and aft; and then anon she's in the hollow 'twixt two waves, which raise her stem and stern, the middle sinking low, and her weak gunwales yielding outward from the pressure of her ends, which opens wide her waist, dismal to look at. Her back must surely break, was now become the general voice; and therein lay their greatest danger. The storm abated nothing of its violence, in vain they toiled, and soon

soon began to mix their work with prayers, and now had lost all hopes of land or life: The Major too had laid his worst accounts, and all hands flagged at their posts. One half of this dismal night they laboured hard in this distress, and might have paddled yet; for some projected point of land, with rocks out-lying in the stream, had such a violent current set in from the shore they sought, as rendered all efforts in vain to reach it.

Now this was apprehended, and about they put, with little better hopes, or less apparent danger, and he's obliged to intreat them to renew their work, and work while any hopes were left, to gain the opposite shore; then swift the paddles go again, and o'er they pass the surging wave, which still breaks in; and still they bale and paddle on.

The tide of ebb being almost spent, the waves begin to fall, the wind to shift a little to the northward, and the tempestuous Heavens to clear, with such a piercing cold, as froze their drenched clothes upon their backs. The new born hopes of life gave vigour to their fainting spirits, and hard they toiled, and by the morning reached the much desired shore.

Worse case was needless, a sorry plight indeed, for scarce a man could lift a leg, their frozen

frozen mail-coats rattled with the ice, and the poor frightened mother could scarcely be persuaded she yet was living, and her poor children too were almost dead. With much-ado they got upon the beach, and straddled to the land, where wood being plenty, the sticks lay opportune; a rousing heap is gathered, the steel and flint is looked for, the tinder next is sought, but it was soaked with wet, and nothing dry was found, this baulked all their growing hopes of success; at length the wife bethought her of her bosom, and there she searched within her stays, and found a rag was dry, by chance, and now the flint is beaten by the steel, and forth the fire came; the wood is kindled, and they all lay round to thaw themselves; first having sent their grateful thanks to Heaven. They now begin to talk of their great danger past, and happily escaped; and then what's for breakfast.

This was the sorest trial they did, or well could meet with from the wave; and here a day or two was spent to recreate, e'er they recovered right themselves again.

This was not their abode, they must again to sea, and try, once more, their trusty cortex, now grown dearer to them by her services. All things in order, with the twilight off they set; the night was quiet and favorable, and on they paffed

passed without disturbance, and with the morning light they spied a little bay, which seemed to court their entrance ; right in they stood, and up they paddled to the top, and went ashore. The necessary orders for the day were issued ; the two provincials, marksmen well experienced, now in the woods advance, to see what they can kill for dinner. Short while they're missed, till they came running back, with rueful length of face, and visage wan, and with a sigh, " we've seen two Indians, nor are they far from hence ;" and nothing more could say for want of breath. Take time my lads, then says their leader, and tell me what the matter is, that makes you look thus frightened : Then they described the Indians at large, both armed with muskets and other implements of death, and carried nothing else.

Streight it is resolved to see them, least, per-adventure, they might be scouts sent from a larger party, and returning, give the alarm ; and in such case, 'twere but a necessary prudence to cut them off. To arms, my friends, and to the place, he said, where these two Indians were, do you lead on who saw them ; all readily obey'd ; the woman, children, and canoe were left ; and now they're on their march, and as they passed along, he gave them strict in

charge, to see that well they stand by him, and firm to one another, and utter not a word, as English was their only language ; and he, by signs, would give them all their motions. Right fair was promised, and now, in sight, beyond a little river, behold the Indians stand, dreading nought of enemies in this mountaineous desart. this river must be crossed, and in they wade, full mid-thigh deep ; by dire mishap, one slipt his foot and fell, his clothes and musket wet, bad omen this, portentuous of ill success was deemed by some ; but soon they're through, and onward move ; the Major in the front, and singing, as he went, some French cantata ; and soon the Indians are joined, then straight in French he them salutes, and asks them of their cheer ; and being close a-breast, the fire-lock of the first he seized, and Stevenson soon had him by the neck, with little ceremony the rest the other seized ; and then he let them know he bore a French commission, and clear instructions had, to search these woods for English prisoners that had escaped from Quebec, and other foes, to the great King, his master, and must be satisfied of what they were ; then straight they told him they were guardians of the fire ; and as a proof of what they said, they'd lead him where it was, and to their habitation.

tation. Fast collared both, in silent shew to all the rest, they march along, directing to their wigwam, a little hut they liv'd in, built much like the common soldier's tent, and covered over with bark of trees.

This fire they protected, is for alarming Canada on any fleets appearance, making for the river Lawrence; the first is kindled at the river's mouth, when by the second that's beheld, anon it's lighted too, then follow all the rest at proper distances; and thus, in half a day at most, the news is carried to Quebec, 300 leagues; by night they blaze, and in the day they smoke. But now we're at the wigwam: And here was to be seen fine beaver skins and teal, and mapple sugar, and twenty other curious things; no sooner seen, but Clark says d—n my soul but I'll have this; d—n me says another, but this is mine; and no sooner were the Indians confirmed in their mistake, but he whom Stevenson held gave such a spring as carried him full four yards from his grips, and more, and sets up such a dreadful yell, so loud and shrill withall, as the high sonorous mountains echoed back far round. Condemned without dispute, and to prevent a repetition of such alarming music, Stevenson has in charge to shoot him instantly,

and

and anon he falls, and soon his comrade follows his example; 'twas now become too dangerous to let them live, and all along they laid, but stript of what the others liked. The wigwam rifled, off they set, and every one had something curious, or useful; and soon they reach their slightly guarded camp. The Major then began to think on his impiudence in leaving them unburied, and back he sends the holy convert, Clark, with him another, to lay them in the ground. Not far from where they laid there stood a pool of water, black and deep, most like an ancient whirlpool of some angling river, whose sources now were dried, or which had changed its course; first having carefully taken off their scalps, and then a heavy stone is fastned to the feet of each, in here they're shoved, and down they sink, and may be sinking yet. Back they return, and Clark, in his familiar droll way, and to prevent a reprimand he dreaded, thus, with cap in hand, accosts his leader: "Sir, an't like your noble "honor, the busines is done you charged me "with, that I've been there, let these bear "witnes," and out he pulls the scalps, "that "they are buried, my neighbour here can testify; "I believe they will not rise again in haste, if "ever they do: Good now sir, by your per-
"mission,

"mission, these same two scalps, when I come to New York, will sell for twenty four good pounds; with this I'll be right merry, and my wife right beau."

The Major was suspicious they might have left some marks of blood or violence, and back with them he runs to satisfy himself; when they came to the place, the Indians' poor faithful dog, before unnoticed, now fits wailing o'er the pool, with a right doleful note; in pity to the poor dumb beast, he's killed, and with his masters sleeps. The place all round surveyed, back they go, and now begin to think they'd better move the camp further from this field of slaughter. By this, a fleet of transports, with convoy, from Old France, were plying up the river for Quebec, and had already reached thus far, and now the rear were passing by this bay, one of which, so large a ship, they took her for the commodore, and as the sailors term is, was either taken all aback, or putting about, had missed her stays, and seemed to them as lying to, for she was fair in view; conscious of their situation, they immediately concluded she had seen their smoak, and sent her boat on shore to learn the meaning of it; out goes the fire, up with the barque, and bag and baggage move into the woods, and downward on the river;

and now the summit of a neck of land is gained, which rising in the river, forms on one side, and overlooks the bay; the road now downward lies, and easier travelling; at length, again, with wearied steps, they reached the water-side; and here they do resolve to wait the night, and then proceed in their canoe. Scarce had they well determined, but lo! a four oar'd boat is spied, come rowing for the shore, and ne'er a ship in view. Courage my Jads, he says, I hope, by your assistance, and God's blessing on our arms, this prize shall be our own, their men our prisoners too, and they shall lessen your fatigue and row for us; observe but what I order, and leave the rest to me, to which they all consent; and now he is resolved to stand his ground and wait the event, or death or conquest, and a better vessel. Their ground they choose just right a head, where she was standing in, and close they laid amongst the rocks. Now briskly on, with quicker strokes, the rowers pulled in for the shore, just as the wearied traveller, with jaded pace, pursues his journey all the morning, and fit, by this time, through his horse to sink, but with noon day descires the inn where he's to bait and to refresh, and with the sight his spirits are revived; he gives his horse the spurs, reminds him

him with the whip, and pushes on with quickened pace, till he arrives; and thus she presently runs bump upon the beach. The signal given, a volley went amongst the crew, and two were slightly wounded, quarters they cried at once; the Major and his party rushed down from the rocks, and stand upon the beach, and streight they're ordered out, unarmed, in number five; a reverend old gentleman, who sat to steer, when he came out, with graceful bow and great submission, desired to know whose prisoner he was; to this the Major answered in French, we are British subjects, and by the fortune of the war, which now does rage betwixt that country's mighty King, and France, we have been prisoners in Canada, but by a lucky chance, we have escaped the vigilance of our enemies, and here you see us, and we're determined, at the utmost hazard of our lives, to get away; and since it's been your fortune to fall into our hands, you're now our prisoners, and your men and shallop shall be of service to effectuate our escape; to which the old gentleman replied, Monsieur, I have been a great way down this mighty river to purchase wheat, at great expence and toil, for all the wheat above, is carried to Quebec to store the magazine, and am returning home, my shallop loaded

loaded as you see; I am Monsieur Chcv. la Darante, the whole Cameraski Isles are mine, and the best gentleman upon them does me vassalage, the best Canadian blood runs in my veins, nor does the mighty Duc de-Miripois deny me of his kindred, and several more nobility of France; besides, I am old and feeble, therefore I think that such a gentleman as I, may be excused the duty to row his enemies; to which, in short, our hero answered: Monsieur, you know self-preservation is the first, and strongest of all nature's laws, fortuna le guerre has put you in our hands, and luckily, I hope, for us; and were you, Monsieur, the great French King himself, and every man stands there a peer of his realm, depend upon it, 'twould be your fates to row a British subject now. At these last mighty words, stern resolution sat upon his countenance, which the Canadian beheld, and with reluctance temporized.

The shallop is too deep for expedition, and so much of the wheat is cast into the river to lighten her, but nothing more than is barely necessary; and now well stowed and trimmed, in get all hands, and with departing day they leave the beach, but loath to leave their favorite canoe; see her now hanging at the stern, in

in tow. Thus doubly manned, they can relieve the oars and attend the sail, which now is likewise set, and then away they fly with double speed, and La Darante too, is glad to take his spell to help them on. But now the poor canoe must go adrift, for she but flops the shallop's way, and off she's cut; then fare thee well sweet bark, he says, and may the birchen trees for ever flourish; many a league thou'lt brought us, thanks even to the hands, whose e'er they were, that stript thee from the tree, and fashioned such a vessel to favor our escape; but above all, great praise to Thee, first unoriginated source of all created beings in Heaven or on Earth, whose universal influence, and power infinite, made all things, and caused that very tree to grow for our relief, for thy benevolence to mankind never ceases: And now the oars are plied, and the kind favorable breeze is constant to the sail, and by the morning, they had made a good night's work.

To haunt the woods by day was now come useless; their shallop could not leave the river, nor cared he much to trust his prisoners a-shore; so on they steer. A fresh set to the oars, by turns, their labour mitigates: And now the sun had reached the height of his meridian altitude, and downward moves; and then

a distant point of land's a-head, whose height, with shaggy top, cuts off their view below: Their constant labour, and the favorable breeze, at length, brings up this land; which, when a-breast, discloses to their view a lofty frigate, which had been convoy to this fleet of transports, under the command of Monsieur Channon; her charge was gone before, and following she was, turning up the river. This sudden dreadful apparition gave no small alarm; but forthwith it's resolved, since stand to fight they could not, to run while they could swim. The Major then, well arm'd and resolutely bent on his escape, down by the tiller fits, and and with a sacred oath declares, that the first man who offered any thing to stop the shallop's way, by flinging of his oar, or otherwise, that instant he should die; and ordered them to pull with vigour, and well to spread the sail: So, as the frigate stood across the river, at a distance they passed by her stern. The usual signal to bring to was fired, they paid it no respect; a second followed, with the same regard; the third, a shot came whizzing o'er their heads; and then she fired, shot after shot, as long as they could reach the shallop; and now the bal's would cool their fiery indignation in the briny wave, and rise again, and o'er them

them fly; and some would pass a-head, and some a-stern, and some, at length, fall short; but, by kind providence, not one could hit them: And thus, at length, they lose her out of sight, nor sorry at their loss, but on they steer, rejoicing at their lucky escape; nor durst they slack their pace that night, but flew along, and by the morning light were distant from her many a mile. But often, as they passed along, Monsieur Ch. la Darante would remonstrate on the hardships that he suffered, not only from the affront that's offered to the honor of his rank, but by being thus detained, and taken back to Louisburgh, for ought that he could see, besides the losing of his wheat: "*It et fortuna de le guerre Monsieur,*" was yet the height of his redress. At last they've run down many a league, and many a point of land is past, and many a shaggy topped mountain, with many a little Island, and several days were gone, and not a sail was met.

It happened, as they sail'd along in shore, they spy'd a boat was lying on the beach, and toward the shore they stand, and run the shallop close a-ground. When they got to her she had ne'er an oar; look well about, my friends, they're not far off; and now they beat about each bush, and presently they're found. Monsieur

sieur la Darante's looks expressed his joy at this glad sight, and hop'd they'd now let him depart, to whom the Major answered thus :
 " Monsieur Chev. la Darante, our most gracious sovereign has taught us, by his great example, (for we serve the best of kings) to shew humanity on all occasions, even to his enemies ; and greatly he delights this to exercise, amongst his many other virtues :
 " And now behold his clemency in us, his subjects, even in this our desperate fortune :
 " Do you engage, upon your high-born honor, that you shall not divulge, by means direct or indirect, to any soul on earth, what brought you back thus far, till you shall reach the Cameraski Isles ; then, if you choose it, tell all Canada ; and do you undertake the same for these, your servants ?
 " This is all that hinders your departure." O'erjoy'd to find that he shall yet get home, he readily complied. Then, Monsieur, your Mast and sail are ours ; you know our case is desperate ; I'll pay you for them. And yet behold the justice of our mighty British monarch ; here too is money for your wheat which was cast into the river. Go, tell all Canada how good he is. Yet one small favor I must ask before you go ; I know you'll soon

soon be at Quebec when you get home, when you come there, pray wait on the commandant, with Monsieur Stobo's compliments, and let him know you saw him thus far on Lawrence River, very safe: This too was undertaken, and both religiously performed. All things in readiness, the crews are parted, and now the boats are both afloat; and compliments exchanged, and stern to stern from other row, and presently lose sight; and all the night they jog along with easy sail, the weather moderate: But with the morning they espy'd a sloop at anchor, riding under a point of land just opened, and her long pendant waving in the wind; no sooner they are seen but straight the signal's fired to bring to, to press their hands it's likely, but to they would not come; then she let fly a swivel loaded with grape, and after that another, and riddles all their sail, but no more damage did; and on they failing, row'd, and push'd it all that day and next, but on the next to that they're not so fortunate. 'Twas toward the evening, the sky began to low'r, the wind to rise, and here's a cobbling sea; but still they keep their course, till it at last turns dangerous to keep out, and it's deem'd best to run her in ashore; then ease away the sail, the helm

a-weather brings her large before the wind. It now was dark, and hard it blow'd, and there's a mighty surf upon the shore; but here's no choice, the coast is all alike, and in they let her drive, and close in shore she runs upon a rock, which bulged her bows at once, and in the water gush'd; the waves break over her, anon she's filled; all hands jump out, take with them what they could, and seek their safety from the shore: Right luckily for them they were so near, and yet with much difficulty they gain'd the land, all soak'd, and some provisions lost; but for the boat there's no relief; for the hard-hearted surf, and harder rocks, demolish her betwixt them: And now they've lost all hopes of ever seeing her again. The night, I wot, with little mirth was pass'd; and by the morning light the wind was shifted, and the surf was laid.

While yet the day was young, a council's call'd to see what's to be done in this emergency; and there, with much debate and reason, strong it's found impracticable every other method to get away, but by this river: Then it's resolved, they hawl their wreck ashore, and the ship carpenter, with all his crew, shall fall to work upon the ruins, and be endeavoring at least to make her swim, if nothing

nothing better offers in the interim: And then they march, all hands, down to their shatter'd vessel, where the tide had left her; and here's too many leaks to think there's any water in her; now they pull and haul, and lift her o'er the stones, and all in sweat, they drag her to the shore; and now she's on the stocks, and all at work, some here, some there, to find materials to patch her up; the lucky man could find a nail, or bring a piece of board, tho' not a foot in length: And now the coast being clear, they're every where with wishful search and watchful eye, to see what they can find both far and near. Few tools, indeed, and these are very bad; right slowly forward comes the work, with all this inconvenience hindered, some days already spent in this successless labour, and their provisions too grow short. At length, with numberless difficulties, the timbers all again are covered, and then she's ready for the pitch and caulkers; both pitch and oakum very scarce, and what they had was scraped, with careful hands, from off the sticks they found upon the beach; some spared a handkerchief, some a stocking, all what they could, to tare for oakum, and the coarse seams are in a homely manner stuffed.

Full eight days here had pass'd to little purpose, and short allowance makes them hasten for the launch of their frail cutter; and on the very day agreed on for that purpose, whilst yet the Sun was hanging on the west, and more than half his downward course had run, two sail are standing down the river, and edging tow'r'd the shore; they let their anchors go right off the place where our frail vessel sat upon the stocks: Their first appearance startled all the host, anon the labour ceases, and on the ground they all lay snug; now all the sails are furled close, and they're prepared to ride out the flood tide.

Fir'd with ambition for some venturous enterprize, our hero's heart expands itself, and grows so big, his breast can scarce contain it, and boldly thus he reasons with himself; here we are reduced to the last want of bread, this boat, which we have patched with so much care, without provisions, can avail us nothing, nor can we hope for a relief within this hostile foil, on any other terms than abject slavery; too much of that I have already seen, come rather death; well may I then pronounce our fortune's desperate, and this despair has often made the coward brave, and of that bravery, noble deeds have been atchieved. Assit me then

then, thou mother of invention, no matter how it's done, if I do but succeed; here are two vessels, and both our enemy's, I may presume, and by their distance, one may be attacked; nor, by their mean appearance, should I think them freight with men or arms; more like some country vessel, and so I'll wish, and hope, and aſt; and now could I divide the force of either vessel, and calmly, under cloud of night, steal on her by surprize, then might I hope ſucceſs, the very thought elates my ſoul, by Jove ſhe's mine; this next us is the ſmalleſt of the two, on her the project ſhall immediately be tried.

And now he calls a council, and communicates his mind; all hear with wonder, at the greatness of his ſoul, and promise to affiſt him with their lives and fortunes; and then they are ordered not to riſe nor stir, but to keep close upon the ground, till he ſhould give the ſignal they agreed on; and then a long ſtraight ſtick is cut from out the buſh, to which, at top, he fastens a white handkerchief, and, enſign like, he marches to the water's edge, his muſket in his other hand, and then he fires his ſignal gun, and bears his enſign waving to the wind. The Sun was ſetting, but anon he's from the ſloop beheld, they wonder what it

means, and freight the boat's put over the tide, and two men and a boy come rowing for the shore, where he stands ready waiting to receive them; when they come near they keep at bay, and ask him what he wants; his tale was not to feck, he is a Frenchman, and necessarily had been here on the King's errand, and now he wants his passage down the river, for which he willingly would pay; he saw their course was that way bent, and thought they'd not refuse him. He luckily had spent that afternoon in shooting on these parts, which brought them to his sight. The night was cold, and he had rum, left in a bottle, almost full, upon the shore, which they were welcome to, if they would fetch it; and then they might return and tell their master what he wanted; then freight they rowed in shore to get the rum, and hauled the boat up from the flood, till they come running back, and all together on they fare.

No sooner had they reached the land, but lo! they're seized with violent hands, and bound; then he declares they're in their enemy's hands, for all they saw are subjects of Great Britain's King, and that it was the duty of all his subjects, in time of war, to kill his enemies wherever they are found, and such they

they surely are; and streight the tomahawk is shown them, and death, without remedy, to be their portion. Look here, my lads, he says, you yet may live, but nothing else can save your lives, except you faithfully declare what hands you left on board, and what their arms. Life's surely very sweet when death's before our eyes, they soon consent, then they're examined sepe-rately, and both agree; the boy too, willing to redeem his youthful days, consents to pilot them on board, which was well judged that his known voice, if there was need, might answer any question put, when they should come along the fide.

The mantle of the night had wrapped all up in silence from the sloop, and now the men are bound, each to a tree, their arms, behind, surrounding it, the feeble woman, only, with a tomahawk, is left to be their guard. Their patched-up vessel, next, is taken from the stocks and launched, the other was thought too small to carry six; and now she swims she's very leaky, but only two must row, and there's two hands to bale, and they had full employ; so off they go, and rowing softly on with silent stroke, came along-side the sloop: A light there's in the binnacle, but ne'er a watch on deck, they're all hands down; the sloop rode

rode fair, her buoy was clear a-head, the weather moderate, and some turn in to sleep, for yet 'twas not half flood, the rest, at ease, enjoy themselves below. Our hero first gets up the side, and as he softly step'd upon the deck, the trusty pistol, which in his belt was stuck, catches the ratlines of the shrouds, which pulls it out, and it comes rattle on the deck ; this gave the alarm, but woe to him who first came up ; so soon as he had shewn his face at the companion door, and bounding up, so soon the Major let fly a shot, in this surprize, and down the fellow tumbled ; the shot had hit him right along the back, and grazed the bone but he's not killed ; then quarters was the word, and now the rest are all upon the deck. The prisoners he orders, one by one, down to the hold, the Master only left, and close he locks the hatches, and then he questions him from whence, and where he's bound, to which he answers freely : " That schooner there above is my " confort, and we are bound to Gaspee to bring " provisions for three hundred Indians, now " assembled at Miramishi and Aristigush, under " the command of Monsieur Bohaber, and who, " on our return, are to proceed to Quebec to " reinforce that garrison." His very soul is all on fire at the news, and thus his heart o'erflows :

Oh !

Oh! Britannia, thou favored isle, amongst the nations all around thee; and how much preferable, blest seat of liberty, how do my bowels yearn to do thee service; now could I but prevent these Savages their support, they can never reach Quebec. I said, in my calamitous distress, were I but free at will to work, I certainly would serve thee; and now I'll do my best, to cut three hundred Indians from the number of thy foes.

Thus said, the master is examined, strict about the schooner's force of men and arms; ten men she had, but ne'er a gun on carriage or on swivel; of this last fort the floop had six, which carefully are all on one side plac'd; the windlass next is manned, the anchor's soon a-peak, and now she's under weigh, and for the schooner steer'd.—Stand firm, my lads, he says, this is a glorious night; and as for you, Monsieur, if you should once but mutter, your life, that moment, shall surely pay the cost; and presently she lays along her side; and straight a dose from all the swivels is pour'd into her at once; then instantly they out for quarters call'd, and she as fast is boarded: And now he stands at her campaneon door, with musket ready cock'd, and boldly orders up the prisoners by ones, and that goes down into the hold, 'till all are stowed away: These

from the sloop come next, and altogether down are well secured. Then every thing that's valuable in the sloop must out be brought; the swivels first are to the schooner's quarters fixed with care, and every thing they lik'd transferred to her; and now, as hands were scarce, and few enough, God knows, to manage one, the sloop must burn, for both they could not keep; and now she's all on fire. By this, the eastern ray began to drive old chaos off that hemisphere, who, conscious of his own demerit, when opposed to light, right silently retires toward the west, 'till he's entirely expelled. Adventurous night! and happily accomplished.

But, now for the poor woman; who, trembling, stood with watchful observation, and when the broadside's heard, the noise went to her heart like death's last summons, and she's confirmed all, to a man, is killed; it must be at them fired, for they had none to give; and now in her own mind revolves what's best for her to do; and thought on terms of peace with her two prisoners, to save her own and children's lives; when presently she sees a smoak arise, and thinks their own ship surely they would never burn, and keeps her counsel yet a little longer, and then the livid flames

flames burst out, and now she hopes for better things.

The morning's come, the woman must be sent for, the children and the prisoners too, and how must this be done: Two of his own, for courage best approved, well arm'd, are to command the expedition; two prisoners are ordered up to row, and for the shore they ply, and safely all on board they bring. And now the hatches bar'd on eighteen prisoners at once, too many sure to put to sea withal; therefore the council's on the quarter call'd, and he proposed to part the prisoners, and load the long boat, and send them off; it's readily agreed, and they are ordered up by ones, and take their seats, till eight are in, she would not well hold more: Provisions next are given them, and the bottle of rum was promised on the shore; a musquet too, with powder and shot, and fishing lines; advising them to make their way for home, which they engaged, and off she goes.

Some prisoners, of those remained, are ordered up to help to work the ship; and now the topsail's loose, the anchor's at the bows, then all her sails are spread; with gladsome hearts they show them to the winds, and through

through the rolling wave away she steals. The boat, as soon as out of sight, makes for the shore, and straightway they repair, where a small party occupied a post, not far from hence, and they inform the officer on duty how it befel them. By this, the hue and cry for Monsieur Stobo's head had reach'd thus far. The officer, with great desire to gain the prize, musters every man that can be spared; a vessel straight is arm'd, and for 6000 livres eagerly did steer; she might as well have staid, for they're too far a-head: With steady care, and all the sail which they could show, for several days, they keep their course; and then the island of St. John does from the ocean lift his head to view. Betwixt this island and the main, is thought the safest course, and in they stand and scud along, but little knew by this, they nisfed the English fleet, which now had failed, and passed without the island; the armed sloop that pursued, had not their good luck, for she was taken: And now behold the land of Cape Breton, and then the welcome port of Louisbourg is gained in eight and thirty days from Quebec. No worse befal the man who says he suffered not.

No sooner is he landed, but straight the news runs through the town that Captain Stobo

Stobo has escaped from Quebec, and is just arrived, but its believed by none ; and several run to see if such a thing could happen ; and some, who formerly had known him, assure the rest that he's the very man, to their great wonder and amaze, after such a price was set upon his head, and guarded with such care. But now the schooner's to be sold, and she had furs and sundry other valuable goods, besides the vessel ; his share he generously bestowed on the poor woman and her children, as he has nobler gains in view ; his heart still glows for honor in the service of his country.

Two days, or so, are past, and then a vessel's ready to proceed for Quebec ; this wished-for opportunity is embraced at once, and he's on board ; and now, with equal ardor, wishes for the place he strove so hard to shun. No danger on the river now is dreaded, nor yet the light of day, and nought disturbs his rest but thinking on the tedious hours that keep him from his duty, and hinder him to join his country's troops ; with their united force to take Quebec, and strive to join all Canada to Britain. At length the different islands take it in their turns to stand astern, and every land-mark's past, and now fair Orleans is again in view, and with Britannia's lofty fleet adorn'd ;

a chearful fight indeed. Now here no time was lost till he has waited on Britannia's effective general, immortal Wolfe, and thus addressed him :

“ Most excellent Sir, I am glad this honor falls to me, to stand before my Sovereign’s mighty General, under the hostile walls of this proud city, whence, on the 1st of May, I did escape from long imprisonment and harder usage. My name is Stobo, I stand as Major of the Provincial Regiment of Virginia; thro’ much difficulty I went to Louisburg, there to join your troops, but missing of them, I hasted back, and now presume to lay my service at your feet: I believe who knows what I have suffered within these walls, scarce well can doubt my best endeavors, under your direction, to distress this cruel enemy. My knowledge of the town and its environs, have cost me very dear, but not so much, that I should rate it once in competition with my much-loved Country, and our gracious Sovereign.”

Nor more he said, nor needed, his story was no secret, he’s judged necessary, well received, and constantly attends the General, and of his house makes one. But here his name, like many a gallant soldier’s, is hid in the great splendor

splendor of the mighty Wolfe ; who, like the Sun with universal blaze advancing from the East, abfords the light of all the lesser lumina-ries, who, tho' they shine, it is in his great orb, and only serve to constitute one fingle ray of his triumphant glory : the praise was justly his.

Now from the head quarters, daily out he sets on this bright General's betrefts, nor once, I believe, has his great patron without him reconnoitred, and once he 'scaped a scouring at this businefs, 'twas at the falls of Montmo-rence, when General Wolfe caused to run a transport near as the high flood could bring her, where, to behold the batteries and breast-works of the enemy, lo ! he stands upon her quarter, just before the muzzles of their can-non, and with this Major by his fide : Amongst the croud of balls came thundering at them, one hits the ship upon the gunwale, nor far from where they stand, and raised a maffey splint of wood, which hit the Major right across his thighs, a little more had cost him both his legs ; it left its vestige black for many a day.

This reconnoitring ended, the transport's left so high a-ground, it's thought she wo'nt get off, and she's immediately condemned to burn. And now he scours the woods in his green drefs, with bonnet blue, to lead each reconnoi-

tring

tring or scouting party, or on the river plies, as his commands direct; and here he's known by every boat. The frigates passed the town, then he's above, and up he goes to take his fair acquaintances high up the river, of whom a goodly number feized; then Monsieur Stobo's name is all that's heard for half an hour at least; this lady enters her complaint, and that cries out she's wronged, another stript of something; too much of this was true, and all at once send up their frightened cries to him, with such a peal, he knows not what to do, or where to answer first, they're all so vehemently loud; but all at length he pacifies, and streight they're carried down the river, and well accommodated on ship board. Some days there after his busness led him to call upon the Admiral in chief, it was about the hour of dinner; the busness ended, the Admiral told him Monsieur _____ was come from Quebec, on messages of truce about the ladies, and was then in the cabin, and to stay dinner; and, if Major Stobo had no objection to such a guest, his company at table would likewise do him pleasure, but could not urge him to sit with such a messmate; to whom the Major answered, if he would excuse his present dishabile, he'd do himself the favor that was meant him at his table; the place

place was sacred to the best of manners. This gentleman was one of his impartial judges, and had been active to insult him in his misery, and load him with disgrace. The dinner's on the table, they all fall on, ill went the viuals down with Major Stobo, and every mouthful offered fair to choak him, nor yet the glass could cheer. The dinner ended, he begged the Admiral's excuse, his business called him, and he could not stay; the Admiral saw well his hurry, nor offered to detain him; but well it is believed, when he and Monsieur meet again, be where it will, both come not off so well. Soon after this, on board the 2d Admiral, as he went, he is informed a prisoner's there who knows him, and he's brought up, and then behold a barber of the town who used to dress his hair, and had been taken, homeward bound, from a 6000 livres expedition; and now he asks the prisoner if he will serve him for yearly wages, to which he readily consents; then of the Admiral he's ask'd, who soon complied; and thus his foe is now become his own domestic servant.

The Major's service at Quebec was all obedience to command, and information, to his great patron, best, and almost only known; he pointed out the place to land, where afterwards they did, and were successful; and having

contributed all that's in his power to this great work ; the General wants a courier to dispatch for General Amherst, and he's the only one that's found who knows the rout by which they needs must pass, and streight his busines is imparted, and he has leave to go. Kind recommending letters, too, he bore from his great Patron to the other General. Now from his worthy noble patron he must seperate, and seperate from his fortune too, for sure as he had faced the enemy in field of battle, so sure he'd fallen, as known, by fight, to every common soldier in Quebec.

And now he's on vessel bound to Boston, crowding down the river Lawrence, and after several days, they've cleared the gulf, and standing on their course, when lo ! a privateer is seen and tow'r'd them she crouds ; then streight all hands at quarters stand, and he was in a common sailor's habit hid, and at his post ; but e'er the privateer came up, he faithfully conveys his letters o'er the side, and down they sink to a right trusty secretary's bosom, where, we may venture to affirm, they yet remain. And now the enemy proclaim their errand by a gun ; a second says, they will not be denied, and soon the English haul their colours down, which when the Major saw, he
streight

streight bethought him of his Canadian valet, and die he must, his own life to secure; and now his piece is cocked, the fellow's on his knees, and well we may aver, he never prayed with greater fervour, when he invoked the saints, than now he does, to spare his life; all that could be said or sworn, he thunders out with great devotion, that neither slavery, nor pain, nor rack, nor torture, nor death, nor dread of Hell itself, should ever make him betray his good kind master, would he but save his life. Self-preservation yielded to humanity, he bravely puts his life into this fellow's hands, rather than take his away, though every law of prudence would have justified it; and now they're boarded. The lucky privateer had taken several English vessels, and had more prisoners than they could well secure, and streight the last taken crew, with several others, are packed into a sloop. Amongst the rest, the Major marches undiscerned, but strict they do confine his servant for a French deserter. Now only guess the situation of the Major's mind, for back he durst not look, but was informed, by those who saw, the fellow cried most bitterly at parting with his generous master. One day's provision only they would spare them, to find the port of Hallifax, nor got they there before

before the fourth; upon an equal dividend, three biscuits were the Major's share, and only water more; of these he eat but two, the third he has. No sooner Halifax is gained, but straight he flies for General Amherst, 'cross the country, many a league; and soon to him imparts what had befall, and what had, to his memory been entrusted: And now attends that General, as a volunteer, on his Lake Champlain expedition, and there he finished the campaign; which ended, he begs leave to go to Williamsburgh, Virginia's capital; and thither straight repairs. No sooner he is seen in town, but presently the Assembly's committee convene, and soon resolve, that Mr. Robert Stobo be presented with their warmest thanks, as of the whole assembly of Virginia, for his known firm attachment to the interests of their Colony, and his unshaken zeal for Britain, and her mighty Sovereign, and for his greater sufferings for their sakes; and this their thanks be by their speaker signed, and be presented to the Major where he lodged, and that without the loss of time: And then, at greater leisure, they determine that his arrears, as Major of their regiment, be forthwith issued, from the day he ranked as such, up to the present.

This was not all, his wages was his due; they thought their empty thanks a poor reward for

for such brave services; and straight they order that one thousand pounds be given him in a present, as a mark of their esteem for what he had done; and then they offer him whatever post of profit or of honor, within their colony, that should fall vacant, less than the government itself, of which he should think well to accept, and yet express their great concern, that they had nought to offer such as he deserv'd. And then they summed up all, with their last effort, to oblige him, by tend'ring him a twelve-month's leave, as Major of their regiment, with his full pay, if he should choose to come to England, and where they hoped their little chieftain would meet with something like to his deserts.

Thus highly honored of his Virginia friends, his furlow does commence from the 1st of February, 1760, and on the 18th he embarked for England, on board the packet from New-York, with Colonel West and several other gentlemen, the same way bound: Kind letters, and suited to his services, with him he carried, from Generals Amherst and Monkton too, and several more; and now he sweeps the watery element for England. The western ocean crossed, the soundings of the English channel's

found ; when, lo ! a sail is spied, and bearing down upon them, makes all hands stand aghast ; her colours, white, soon what she is declares : Then over goes the packet, the Major too sends down his recommending letters to the deep, himself concealed in a disguise, and carelessly he casts his scarlet frock down somewhere in the cabin, which Monsieur, if he claims, was welcome to. All was prepared, but not to fight, for yet we hear of no resistance that they made ; and now the privateer's along the side, and they are boarded ; the vessel rummaged, nothing in her's found but passengers ; a few gold watches the Frenchmen had a fancy for, and they are feized sans ceremonie, and what besides they liked, but had they taken all the baggage, the ransom would have been small : And now they talk of terms, or go to France ; go as it will, they must pay for it, and of two evils, surely both's the least. Five and twenty hundred pound's agreed on for their liberty to go for England, of which, the Major is assessed one hundred and twenty-five for his proportion, but twice that sum had not excused him, had they but known his name ; and for the faithful payment of this ransom, a subject is delivered to the privateer. And now again the packet's

under

under weigh, and stands upon her course with all the sail she could, and soon they make the land, and by-and-by they see the port of Falmouth, and then all hands prepare to come a-shore; the Major now again draws to his coat, Monsieur had left him, and in the pocket, under the arm pit, to his great surprise, he finds a letter, which, by accident, had missed the general catastrophe, for he'd forgot it: this was addressed from General Monkton to Mr. Pitt, and now is all he has to show; but the General and Admiral's then in England, and other officers of note, who had been at Quebec, by their report, e'er he arrived, had rendered its utility of little purpose. But now a-shore to Falmouth, and then for London, by quick and sure progression, and scarce a town is passed upon the road where the French prisoners were quartered, but some know Monsieur Stobo, and all pretend great joy to see him. But welcome London, on the 22d of March, where he resides 'till he's refreshed, and has forgot his toils; and now's the season for the field again, and here he must not stay.

A short memorial is made, a modest narrative of what he'd done and suffered, and begged his honor's intercession with his Sovereign, to honor

honor him with a command, even of a company, in his country's service, where they thought best, and that he might not lose an hour of the campaign which now's at hand. With this and General Monkton's letter, he then proceeds to our great patriot Minister, patron of all true merit, who generously received him as a brave soldier of fortune, and told him first, that he had hear'd his story ; and with him held some conference about our nation's north domain affairs ; then gives him gracious assurance of his service for him, and he's dismissed. Few days indeed were passed, before there is a letter for him at his lodgings, inclosing one from Mr. Pitt to General Amherst, with his own hand wrote, and arms affixed; but open left, that he might see what he's to carry ; In which kind letter, after he has signified to General Amherst his Majesty's most gracious approbation of what the Major sought, he adds, in words like these : " As I have taken a great share in the " general attention that is paid here to this offi- " cer's merit, his sufferings, and his zeal for his " Majesty's government, I shall esteem it as a " particular favor, if you will honor him with " the command of a company in the army under " your command; and I understand an oppor- " tunity will soon offer itself, either in your
 " own,

“ own, or Anstruther’s regiment, &c. I am,
“ with great truth, &c.”

This was his leave for North America again, where it is thought best to send him. Two days, not more, are passed, till he’s for Falmouth post, and sailed the 24th of April, in the same packet, for New-York, 1760.

END OF THE MEMOIRS,



ABSTRACTS

FROM THE

Journals of the House of Burgesses,

IN

VIRGINIA.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30th, 1754.

Upon a motion made:

ORDERED, that the thanks of this house be given to Colonel George Washington, Captain Mackay, of his Majesty's independent company, and the officers under his command; Major Adam Stephens; Captains Robert Stobo, Peter Hog, Andrew Lewis, George Mercer; Lieutenants Thomas Wagener, William Polson, John Savage, James Towers; Ensigns William Bronough, John Mercer, William Peyronie, and James Craig, for their late gallant and brave behaviour in the defence of their country; and that the Speaker be desired to write to Colonel Washington

Washington to acquaint him of the same, to desire him to inform the gentlemen of it, and to communicate to the soldiers the just sense this house has of their bravery also.

By the house of Burgesses.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25th, 1754.

Upon a motion made:

RESOLVED, that an humble address be presented to his honor, the Governor, to express our approbation of the conduct and gallant behaviour of the several officers of the Virginia forces, except George Muse, late Lieutenant-Colonel; and Jacob Vanbraam, late Captain; and to desire his honor to recommend them in a particular manner to his Majesty's favor; and at the same time to acquaint his honor, that it is the opinion of this house, that nothing will contribute so much to the success of the expedition against the invaders of his Majesty's dominions, as a proper encouragement to such of the inhabitants as shall be inclined to serve in his Majesty's army in the present expedition, and that Mr. Charles Carter, Mr. Landon Carter, Mr. Fitzhugh, Mr. Bland, and Mr. Randolph, do wait on his honor with the said address.

By the house of Burgesses.

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29th, 1754.

Mr. Charles Carter reported the Governor's answer to the address: "That he was pleased that the sentiments of this house concurred with his own, that he had already made a representation to his Majesty in their favor, and would take care to renew it."

FRIDAY, APRIL 30th, 1756.

RESOLVED, that the sum of three hundred pounds be paid to Captain Robert Stobo, in consideration of his services to the country, and his sufferings in his confinement, as a hostage, at Quebec.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19th, 1759.

A message from the Governor was delivered by
Mr. Walthoe:

Mr. Speaker,

The governor has commanded me to lay before this house a letter his honor has just received from his excellency, General Amherst, in favor of Captain Stobo, by whom it was sent, which, with that gentleman's singular sufferings, he recommends to the immediate consideration of this house.

The house immediately proceeded to the consideration of the said letter, and the same being read:

Upon

Upon a motion made, it was

RESOLVED, that the sum of one thousand pounds be paid, by the treasurer of this colony, to Captain Robert Stobo, over and above the pay that is due to him from the time of his rendering himself a hostage, to this day, as a reward for his zeal to his country, and the recompence for the great hardships he has suffered, during his confinement in the enemy's country.

ORDERED, that the said resolve be engrossed, and that Mr. Bland do carry it up to the council for their concurrence.

Upon a motion made :

RESOLVED, that an humble address be made to his honor, the governor, to desire that he will be pleased to take Captain Stobo into his special care and favor, and promote him in the service of this colony; and that Mr. Richard Henry Lee do wait on his honor with the said address.

Upon a motion made :

RESOLVED, that the thanks of this house be given to Mr. Robert Stobo, for his steady and inviolable attachment to the interest of this country; for his singular bravery and courage, exerted

exerted on all occasions, during this present war, and for the magnanimity with which he has supported himself, during his confinement in Canada; and that he be congratulated, in the name of this house, on his safe and happy return to this colony; and that Mr. Nicholas, Mr. Bland, and Mr. Washington, do wait on him for that purpose.

By the house of Burgesses.

C. WYTHE, C. H. B.

THE END.

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